

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as listed below:

Complete listing of claims.

1 - 12 Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) A stent for implantation in or around a hollow organ, comprising:

~~said stent formed as a unitary structure from a shape memory material, said unitary structure being self expanding stent upon deployment in said organ;~~

~~said unitary structure stent being a tube shaped body defined by a curved planar sidewall surrounding an axial interior along a length, said sidewall having voids formed therein defining a plurality of adjacently positioned ring shaped elastic wall segments, each having a radial elastic structure, said wall segments,~~

~~said voids defining said wall segments comprising spring devices;~~

~~_____gaps separating said wall segments;~~

~~a plurality of connector devices in a communication across said gaps linking adjacently positioned said wall segments, said connectors having a substantially "S" shape at a central portion of said communication;~~

~~said connector devices aligning along a length of said body stent to form at least one continuous longitudinal flange;~~

~~said flange having said spring devices included therein thereby said flange providing means to maintain said length of said stent under tensile or compressive stress; and~~

~~said connector devices having a width or a thickness, said width or thickness being larger than a respective width or thickness of adjoining said spring devices.~~

~~_____said S shape of said connectors providing means for absorbing a compressive stress in the axial direction or a tensile stress in the longitudinal direction.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A stent according to Claim 13, characterized by the fact that the wall segments have second spring devices; and
said first spring devices and said second spring devices are arranged in alternate fashion at an angle to each other.

15. (Currently Amended) A stent according to Claim 14, characterized by the fact that the first spring devices and second spring devices are ~~more or less~~ substantially rectilinear.

16. (Previously Presented) A stent according to Claim 14 characterized by the fact that the connector devices communicate in-between only first spring devices or only second spring devices.

17. (Previously Presented) A stent according to Claim 15 characterized by the fact that the connector devices communicate in-between only first spring devices or only second spring devices.

18. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 13 of the previous claims, characterized by the fact that several longitudinal flanges are parallel to each other ~~at determined distances from each other~~ in a ~~helical formation~~ projection onto an external periphery area of said stent arranged in a direction of the periphery, at distances from each other. along said length of said sidewall

19. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 14 of the previous claims, characterized by the fact that several longitudinal flanges are parallel to each other ~~at determined distances from each other~~ in a ~~helical formation~~ projection onto an external periphery area of said stent arranged in a direction of the periphery, at distances from each other. along said length of said sidewall

20. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 15 of the previous claims, characterized by the fact that several longitudinal flanges are parallel to each other ~~at determined distances from each other~~ in a helical formation projection onto an external periphery area of said stent arranged in a direction of the periphery, at distances from each other. along said length of said sidewall.

21. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 16 of the previous claims, characterized by the fact that several longitudinal flanges are parallel to each other ~~at determined distances from each other~~ in a helical formation projection onto an external periphery area of said stent arranged in a direction of the periphery, at distances from each other. along said length of said sidewall.

22. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 14, characterized by the fact that said first spring devices and said second spring devices have a width and said connector devices have a connector said width which is ~~wider than both~~ twice as wide as said width of said first spring devices and said second spring devices.

23. (Currently Amended) A stent for implantation in or around a hollow organ, comprising:

said stent formed as a unitary structure from a shape memory material, said unitary structure being expandable upon deployment in said organ;

said unitary structure being a tube shaped body defined by a sidewall surrounding an axial interior along a length, said sidewall having voids formed therein defining a plurality of adjacently positioned ring shaped elastic wall segments, each having a radial elastic structure, ~~said wall segments,~~

said voids defining gaps separating said wall segments,
~~a plurality of connector devices in a communication across~~
said gaps linking adjacently positioned said wall segments,~~said~~
~~connectors having a substantially "S" shape at a central portion~~
~~of said communication;~~

said connector devices aligning along a length of said body
to form at least one continuous longitudinal flange;

said flange providing means to maintain said length of said
stent under tensile or compressive stress;~~and~~

~~said S shape of said connectors providing means for~~
~~absorbing a compressive stress in the axial direction or a~~
~~tensile stress in the longitudinal direction.~~

24. (Previously Presented) A stent according to claim 23 wherein
said unitary structure is expandable upon a deployment in said
organ using a balloon catheter.

25. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 13,
characterized by the fact that said stent it is made of a shape
memory material, ~~in particular Nitinol~~ and may be self expanded
~~upon a~~ for a deployment in said organ.

26. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim ~~24~~ 13
characterized by the fact that ~~it~~ said stent is made of stainless
steel, plastic or a self-dissolving material.

27. (Currently Amended) A stent according to claim 13 wherein the
~~sidewall defining said tube shaped body~~ said periphery is
machined to a smooth or polished surface.